

In December 2019, the Benton-Franklin Health District Board of Health approved a new fee structure for food establishments in Benton and Franklin Counties. Below is a summary of the changes which will be effective January 1, 2020.

Summary of Changes

Plan Review Fees

Plan review fees will be increased by an average of 20%. These fees apply only to review of new construction plans or plans for change of ownership/remodel of an existing establishment. Existing operators will not be affected by this change.

Grocery Fees for Additional Departments

Grocery and convenience stores with any open food preparation will see an additional charge on their 2020 bill for a "deli" permit. Existing delis that offer seating for customers to eat in-house will be changed to a restaurant permit. Additionally, all grocery departments will be charged based on risk level categories. Delis, bakeries, meat, and produce departments that conduct processes with increased levels of food safety hazards will be assigned a higher risk level and will pay a higher annual permit fee.

Reinspection Fees

Following a July 1, 2019 change in the Food Safety Enforcement Policy, all reinspections will now be charged a fee. Starting January 1, 2020, all reinspections will be charged at a rate of \$125.00.

[Click here to read the full 2019 Food Safety Enforcement Policy.](#)

New Fee Categories

In an effort to accommodate for industry trends, new fee categories have been created. A new low cost fee has been added for "pop-up" restaurants (restaurants operating for less than 21 days per year) and new fees have been added for establishments conducting specialized processing like curing, fermentation, or sous vide. For specialized processes, an additional \$200 fee will be added to the permit for annual verification visits.



Benton-Franklin Health District 2020 Food Program Fee Changes

December 2019

Temporary Event Fees

Fees for temporary food establishment permits will be increasing by an average of 16% in 2020. Temporary permits will now cost \$60 for low risk foods, \$90 for moderate risk foods, and \$110 for high risk foods. Additional days for a temporary permit will remain at \$15 per day on top of the base fee.



Seasonal Temporary Event Fees

The cost for seasonal temporary event permits will be increasing by 33%. However, these permits will now be valid for nine months in duration instead of six months. Seasonal temporary permits will cost \$200 for low risk foods, \$300 for moderate risk foods, and \$400 for high risk foods.

Catering Permits at a Temporary Event

Beginning May 1, 2020, BFHD will no longer consider a catering permit to be valid for the sale or service of food at a temporary event. This policy change is being made in an effort to align with the Washington State Food Code (WAC 246-215), which defines a catering operation as a food establishment that contracts with a client to prepare a specific menu and amount of food for service to the client's guests or customers. A catering license will still be valid when the operation meets the definition of "catering operation" in the Food Code (that is, when serving or selling a pre-contracted amount of food to a client). When serving food in response to a customer's order at a temporary event, all food operators will have to obtain a temporary food establishment permit. A reduced fee permit will be offered for operators who already possess a valid BFHD catering license. Temporary event permits for a licensed catering operation will cost \$30 for low risk foods, \$45 for moderate risk foods, and \$55 for high risk foods.

Questions?

Contact your assigned inspector or the Food Program main office at (509) 460-4205 if you have any questions about the upcoming changes. A full copy of the 2020 Fee schedule can be found at https://www.bfhd.wa.gov/programs_services/food_safety/applications